Foreign coaches for hockey and wrestling

1180. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are open to hiring foreign coaches; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering hiring foreign coaches for our sporting men and women for hockey and wrestling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Foreign coaches to train sports persons of a particular sports discipline are appointed as per the recommendations of the concerned National Sports Federation/ Association.

(b) Two foreign coaches, one each for Free Style and Greco Roman categories are already employed to train our wrestlers. There are no requests either from Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) or Indian Women Hockey Federation (IWHF) for engaging foreign coaches.

Functioning of SAI

1181. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of Sports Authority of India could be made more professional; and

(b) if so, what steps would be taken to implement professionalism there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is a professional organisation consisting of Sports Administrators, Sports Scientists, Coaches, Doctors, Physical

Education Experts, Teachers, Engineers (Civil/Electrical), Academicians, Groundsmen and other supporting staff. There has been a continuous endeavour on the part of SAI to bring professionalism in its sports promotion activities. The implementation of various SAI schemes is done by adopting systematic and scientific approach towards sports promotion. More and more sportspersons and other experts are associated from time to time for implementing schemes/programmes of SAI which are implemented by it through its regional centres in collaboration with the State Governments/UTs administration. These schemes/programmes are reviewed periodically in order to make SAI more professional and result-oriented. In addition, foreign coaches/ experts are invited from abroad to provide coaching to our sportspersons. Presently, there are 42 foreign coaches in different disciplines to train the national teams for different disciplines in collaboration with the Indian Olympic Association and the concerned National Sports Federation. Apart from the National Coaches, Foreign Coaches, Sports Scientists/ Experts are also associated with the preparation of the national team and progress thereof reviewed periodically by the Government/Expert Committee and remedial actions taken, if required.

Controversy regarding Arjuna Award

1182. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any controversy regarding selection of eminent sports persons to be given Arjuna Award;

(b) if so, what were the main objections;

(c) whether any steps have been taken for making this selection transparent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A well laid down procedure with objective criteria for selection of Arjuna awardees already existed in the Ministry. However, based on representations received